

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /080 W
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R 011449Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3321

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3444

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: KHADDAM DISCUSSES CAIRO ACCORDS

1. IN JUNE 1 MEETING, I ASKED FONMIN KHADDAM TO STRAIGHTEN ME OUT ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS AND THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE. ON THE ONE HAND THE KFUR FRONT WAS SAYING THEY CONSIDERED THE ACCORDS NULL AND VOID AND ON THE OTHER A PLO SPOKESMAN HAD ASSERTED THAT THE ACCORDS WERE ALREADY 95 PER CENT IMPLEMENTED. KHADDAM SNORTED THAT NEITHER ONE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. THE KFUR FRONT COULD NOT REJECT THE ACCORDS AND, BY ANY MEASUREMENT OF PROGRESS, THE ACCORDS WERE FAR FROM BEING 95 PERCENT IMPLEMENTED.

2. THE PRINCIPAL SUCCESSES REGISTERED TO DATE IN IMPLEMENTING THE ACCORDS WERE THE COLLECTION OF HEAVY WEAPONS, THE BAN ON PUBLIC CARRYING OF WEAPONS, AND A DIMINISHED "INTERMESHING," BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL, BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE.

3. KHADDAM SAID THAT JUDGING BY PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF THE VARIOUS LEBANESE FACTIONS, HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED THE QUADRI-
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PARTITE COMMITTEE MANDATE WOULD BE RENEWED. DESPITE ITS MANY MEETINGS, THE COMMITTEE HAD CONTRIBUTED LITTLE. IN ANY EVENT, EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE WAS A QUESTION OF SARKIS ALONE TO DECIDE AND KHADDAM UNDERLINED WHETHER OR NOT THE COMMITTEE HAS COME TO AN END IS AN ISSUE DISTINCT FROM PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS.

4. I SAID THERE WAS TALK IN BEIRUT THAT THE RECENT ISRAELI ELECTIONS MEANT THERE COULD BE NO FURTHER DISARMAMENT OF THE PALESTINIANS. KHADDAM QUICKLY AND CATEGORICALLY DISMISSED THIS AS MERE SPECULATION. THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS HAD NOT RELATION TO DISARMAMENT IN LEBANON. HE REPEATED HIS FAMILIAR STAND "TO THE EXTENT SARKIS WANTS TO DISARM THE FACTIONS WITHIN LEBANON, SYRIA WILL HELP HIM TO DO SO."

5. I THEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF RECENT VISITS TO DAMASCUS OF VARIOUS LEFTIST LEBANESE POLITICIANS. WAS A NEW POLITICAL FRONT IN THE MAKING? KHADDAM REPLIED THAT SOME POLITICIANS HAD RECENTLY COME HERE, BOTH MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS, TO ASK SYRIA'S POINT OF VIEW ABOUT THE LEBANESE DIALOGUE. THE MESSAGE GIVEN ALL SUCH VISITORS BY SARG WAS THAT THEY SHOULD COOPERATE TO HELP SARKIS.

6. KHADDAM SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXPLOSION WITHIN LEBANON WAS VERY MUCH LESS TODAY THAN LAST FEBRUARY. HE DID NOT EXPECT THE ADF TO CARRY OUT A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH FOR WEAPONS WHETHER IN THE CAMPS OR AMONG LEBANESE FACTIONS. SUCH HAD NEVER BEEN SARKIS' IDEA. THE ADF WOULD MOVE AGAINST IDENTIFIED ARMS DEPOTS. KHADDAM AFFIRMED THAT SARKIS WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE THE ADF TO CRACK HEADS OF ANY SIDE WHICH HE SENSES IS UNDERMINING THE PEACE AND SECURITY IN LEBANON.

7. COMMENT:

KHADDAM WAS A BIT MORE FORTHCOMING THAN USUAL ABOUT
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LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS BUT DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE MAJOR EFFORT SYRIA IS MAKING, ACCORDING TO ITS OWN PRESS OF LAST WEEK, TO WELD A LEFTIST FRONT TOGETHER IN LEBANON. HIS COMMENT ABOUT THERE BEING NO PLAN TO DEPLOY THE ADF WITHIN THE CAMPS ECHOES A SIMILAR POINT MADE BY COS SHIHABI ON MAY 20.

8. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF EMBASSY BEIRUT'S GRIM ANALYSIS ABOUT THE DID PROSPECTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CAIRO ACCORDS, KHADDAMS WORDS RING HOLLOW (BEIRUT 2589).
MURPHY

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